

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3 and 4 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. Claims 2 and 5-30 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended. Descriptive support for the amendment is found in the specification as filed. The amendment is believed to introduce no new matter, and its entry is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,393,163 to Burt *et al.* (hereinafter "Burt"). Claims 2-4 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Based on the above amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

I. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is Moot and the Application Should be Allowed  
Claims 1 and 5-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Burt. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-4 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. In order to expedite prosecution, claim 2 has been cancelled and claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2. Therefore, claim 1 is now allowable and, by virtue of their dependency on claim 1, claims 3 and 4 are also allowable for at least these reasons.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and issue a Notice of Allowability for claims 1, 3 and 4.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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